

Ac. 4411 (3)

W I V E N H O E U R B A N
D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L



ANNUAL

REPORT

OF THE

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

and

S U R V E Y O R and P U B L I C H E A L T H

I N S P E C T O R

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 7 1

1.

Lexden Grange,
Lexden Road,
Colchester.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the
Health and Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1971.

—
I have to thank the members of the Council and the Council's
staff for their assistance during the year.

I have the honour to be,
Your Obedient Servant

S. MACMILLAN

Medical Officer of Health



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2.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health SYLVIA MACMILLAN, M.R.C.S., I.R.C.P., M.B.B.S., D.P.H.
Appointed 1st April 1966 (Time shared with two neighbouring Authorities,
and the County Council.)

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor J.KELLY, M.A.P.H.I.

Assistant to the Public Health Inspector and Surveyor M.C.WALKER, A.R.S.H.,
M.R.P.A.

COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Committee - Chairman Councillor E.E.J.WESTLAKE

Highways & Water Committee - Chairman Councillor W.SPARROW

Housing Committee - Chairman Councillor Miss.B.A.GRASBY

Finance & General Purposes Committee - Chairman Councillor L.W.KEMBLE

Chairman of the Council - Councillor E.J.HATCH

Clerk to the Council - W.TRICKETT, A.C.C.S.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (Acres)	1,493
Register General's estimate of resident population	5,270
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1971) according to Rate Book	1,570
Rateable Value	150,007
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,819

The district is situated on the east bank of the river Colne where its waters are tidal. It is about four miles down the river from Colchester, and it is also on the main line from London to Clacton-on-Sea. Local industries are shipbuilding, general engineering, agriculture and clothing manufacture. It is also a small yachting and fishing centre. More than half the working population find their employment outside the district.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
LIVE BIRTHS { All	35	40	75
{ Legitimate	34	37	71
{ Illegitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate live births as % of total live births			5.3%
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			14.2%
Comparability factor			1.01
Corrected rate			14.3
England and Wales			16.0
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
STILL BIRTHS	0	1	1
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) babies			13
England and Wales			12
Total births (live and still births)			76
INFANTS DEATHS { All	3	0	3
{ Legitimate	3	0	3
{ Illegitimate	0	0	0
Under 1 year	1	0	1
Under 4 weeks	1	0	1
In first week	1	0	1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births			13
Legitimate infants deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			14
Infant mortality England and Wales			18
Perinatal mortality rate (still births plus deaths during first week per 1,000 total live and still births) England and Wales	22		26
Maternal deaths			0
Maternal mortality rate			0
Total deaths M - 17 F - 15 TOTAL - 32			
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			6.1
Comparability factor			1.14
Corrected death rate			7.0
England and Wales			11.6
Infectious disease			- None notified

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948/51

No action under this Act was necessary

NOTE ON VITAL STATISTICS

It is interesting to compare some figures from 1971 statistics with those of 1961 and these are shown in the following table:

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1961</u>
Population	5,270	2,750
No. of births	75	65
Birth ² Rate (corrected)	14.2	25.0
Birth Rate England and Wales	16.0	17.4
Death Rate (corrected)	7.0	11.1
Death Rate England and Wales	11.9	12.0

The Birth Rate has dropped steadily since 1968 and is now at a remarkably low figure, but since the population has nearly doubled in the last 10 years there has of course been a steady increase in the actual number of births.

Deaths in various age groups (local statistics)

Under 4 weeks	2	35 - 45 years	0
4 weeks - 1 year	0	45 - 55 years	4
1 - 5 years	2	55 - 65 years	4
5 - 15 years	0	65 - 75 years	9
15 - 25 years	2	75 years and over	14
25 - 35 years	0		

Causes of Death

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Malignant neoplasm, Intestine	0	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	0	2
Malignant neoplasm, Breast	0	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, Prostate	1	0	1
Other malignant neoplasms	1	0	1
Hypertensive Disease	1	0	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	5	4	9
Cerebrovascular Disease	3	1	4
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	0	2	2
Pneumonia	0	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	0	1	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	0	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	0	1
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	0	1
Total all Causes	17	15	32

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens are sent to the laboratory at the Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

Samples of water are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, when a bacteriological analysis is required, and to the County's Public Health Laboratory, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.L., when a chemical or complete analysis is required.

Samples of food and ice cream etc., are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich.

Ambulance Facilities

Non-emergency calls are not accepted from the general public.

To obtain an ambulance in an emergency it is merely necessary to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance.

If there is a dialling system in operation, dial '999' or '100' and ask for ambulance.

HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Child Health	Innoculation against measles, diptheria,
Pre-natal and post-natal clinics	whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis,
Relaxation and Mothercraft	tuberculosis and german measles.
Home Nursing	Provision of nursing equipment.
Home Help	School health service.
Mental health	

Cervical Cytology Clinic is held at Central Health Services Clinic, East Lodge Court, High Street, Colchester every Thursday at 9.30am: Col. 79411

Relaxation Clinics and Mothercraft, Central Clinic, East Lodge Court, Colchester: Monday morning, Tuesday morning and afternoon, Thursday morning and afternoon, Friday morning and afternoon.

Child Health Clinics are held at the Wivenhoe Public Hall every Tuesday at 2.00 p.m.

Assistance from the Home Help Service is obtained by communicating with the Home Help Organiser, Park Road, Colchester. Col. 79511

HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

V.D.Clinic. Sessions are held at the Essex County Hospital on Tuesday, 5.0 p.m. to 6.30 p.m., and Fridays, 10.0 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

Family Planning Association - Clinics are held at the following:-

- (1) Essex County Hospital, Mondays and Thursdays, 6.30 to 8.30pm. Tel. Col. 77341
- (2) Monkwick Health Services Clinic, Tuesday 6.0 to 9.0pm. I.U.D. Clinics Wednesdays a.m. (by appointment), and 1st and 3rd Friday a.m. (by appointment). Telephone Colchester 78571.
- (3) Tiptree Health Services Clinic, 1st and 3rd Thursday in the month, 6.0 to 9.0 p.m. Telephone Tiptree 6475.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1. Mains Water Supply. The Tendring Hundred Waterworks Co. continued as the statutory undertaking responsible for the supply of water throughout the Council's district. From the reports below, for which I am indebted to their Chief Engineer, Mr. John A.W. Rayner, C.Eng., M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., it will be readily seen a wholesome supply has been given and it has been in sufficient quantity.

The amount of water supplied to Wivenhoe in the 12 months ended 31st December, 1971, amounted to 71,278 million gallons, an average daily consumption of 0.196 million gallons. The total quantity taken for domestic purposes during the year was 46.469 million gallons, an average daily consumption of 0.128 million gallons. The total amount taken through trade meters was 24.809 million gallons, an average daily consumption of 0.068 million gallons.

The total number of connections (domestic and trade) made in the year to the Company's mains in the Urban District, amounted to 54.

Approximately 358 yards of new mains of 1½", 4" and 6" diameter have been laid in the Wivenhoe district during the year.

Bacteriological and Chemical Analyses

Chemical results in milligrammes per litre

Queens Road Pumping Station - 28th January, 1971

Colour	NIL	Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.00
pH.	7.9	Metals: (iron)	0.10
Electric Conductivity	1800	Zinc, Copper, lead	absent
Chlorine present as Chloride	410	Turbidity	less than 1
Hardness: Total	120	Odour	NIL
Carbonate	120	Free Carbon Dioxide	8
Non-Carbonate	0	Alkalinity as Calcium	
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.0	Carbonate	305
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.67	Nitrite Nitrogen	absent
		Residual Chlorine	0.25

Bacteriological Results

	<u>1 day at 37°C</u>	<u>2 days at 37°C</u>	<u>3 days at 20°C</u>
No. of Colonies developing on Agar	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	0 per ml.
	Present in	Absent from	Most probable No.
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	0 ml.	100 ml.	0 per ml.
E. Coli (type I)	0 ml.	100 ml.	0 per ml.
Cl. Welchii Reaction	0 ml.	100 ml.	

Remarks. This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a very minute trace of iron. The hardness of the water is very moderate. The somewhat high content of mineral and saline constituents is typical of this source. The water conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses. Its known content of fluorine is however greater than the amount considered desirable (from the aspect of causing mottled enamel). A slight saline taste due to the content of sodium chloride may be noticeable to some consumers.

Dedham Pumping Station.

Chemical results in parts per million

Colour	3	Turbidity	1.0
pH.	7.6	Odour	NIL
Electric Conductivity	890	Free Carbon Dioxide	12
Chlorine present as Chloride	130	Alkalinity as Calcium	
Hardness Total	291	Carbonate	265
Carbonate	265	Nitrite Nitrogen	absent
Non-Carbonate	30	Oxygen absorbed	0.20
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.30	Residual Chlorine	0.20
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.58	Total solids	605
Metals (iron)	0.30		
(Zinc, copper, lead)	absent		

Bacteriological Results.

	<u>1 day at 37°C</u>	<u>2 days at 37°C</u>	<u>3 days at 20°C</u>
No. of Colonies developing on Agar	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	0 per ml.
	Present in	Absent from	Most probable No.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes reaction	0 ml.	100 ml.	0 per ml.
Bact. Coli (type 1)	0 ml.	100 ml.	0 per ml.
Cl. Welchii Reaction	0 ml.	100 ml.	

Remarks. These samples are practically clear and bright in appearance, have a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and are free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

All samples were analysed by the County's Public Health Laboratories.

2. Sewers and Sewage Disposal. The normal ~~routine~~ maintenance of the Pumping Station and Sewage Works was carried out during the year.

This year saw a major step forward in the Wivenhoe Sewer Stage II Scheme when the Council approved an estimated expenditure of £65,000 for the scheme; this to be claimed against the County Area "Large Projects Pool" and to be spread over a period of two years. Agreement was also reached on the route of the new rising main sewer which consists of 708m. (2,560 ft.) of 203 mm. (8") spun iron pipe and approval given for tenders to be invited for this main Civil Engineering Contract. Separate contracts were also approved for specialised works, viz: Soil Survey, Re-equipping of the Pumping Station with new pumps and Auger Boring below the Clacton Railway line.

A request for permission to discharge the sewage from a further 8 acres of land in the Ballast Quay Farm area and situated within the Tendring R.D. was received during the year. Following a report from the Council's Consultant Engineer, it was decided that permission be granted for the 8 acres to be drained direct to the Pumping Station by means of a separate sewer constructed at no expense to the Council and laid outside the Wivenhoe U.D. boundary.

3. Public Cleansing. The refuse collection service was satisfactorily maintained during the year. The collection vehicle was out of service for only two days to enable the 'pakamatic mechanism' to be overhauled. This mechanism had become badly worn due to normal 'wear and tear'.

Although the refuse tip continued to give satisfactory facilities for disposal, its full benefit was not being obtained on account of the declining efficiency of the M.F. Digger which was now 7 years old. This machine was beset with continual breakdowns and approval was subsequently given by the Council for a new J.C.B. 2D Excavator to be purchased. This new machine has since greatly improved the works of excavation for covering material and the controlled tipping generally.

The 'cutting' along the north boundary of the tip was infilled for a distance of 50 yards from the entrance gate and a new length of chain link fence erected. This enabled an additional portion of land to be reclaimed and ten young quick growing evergreen conifer trees were also planted to form a screen along this exposed stretch of the boundary. Six similar trees were also planted along the east boundary fence adjoining the Playing Fields.

The Refuse Tip has, as in previous years, been open to the public on the first Saturday morning of each month for the deposit of household refuse and this facility has certainly been well used by the public generally.

4. Public Conveniences. All the public conveniences have been cleaned out and disinfected daily during the year. Only one defect required attention, this being a leak on the water supply pipe to the Car Park toilets.
5. Council House Maintenance. The normal routine repairs have been carried out both by direct labour and contract during the year.

An inspection of the 1919 Rectory Road houses was carried out by the Eastern Gas Board in preparation for their conversion to North Sea Gas.

This year it was decided to invite tenders for the external painting of Council Houses instead of having this work carried out by the direct labour staff. 26 No. houses at Britannia Crescent and 6 No. flats at 'Corsellis House' were painted.

Improvements were carried out to the garden area of Britannia Court Aged Persons' Flats with the planting of additional trees and flowers and the erection of a bird table.

The following requests were made by tenants during the year and approved by the Council:-

<u>Item</u>	<u>No. of Requests</u>
(1) To install immersion heaters	2
(2) To install a sink unit	1

In addition, an application was also received from a tenant to carry out extensive internal alterations, but this was refused by the Council.

6. Housing. The rate of building remained much the same as last year with 50 No. dwellings being completed. This included 7 No. Aged Persons' Bungalows in Vanessa Drive.

The number of dwellings under construction at the end of the year was 35.

Approval was given for 17 applications for Standard Grants and £1,965 was paid to owners of 8 properties for work completed.

7. New Buildings. 220 plans for new buildings and/ or extensions were deposited for Building Regulation Approval and 67 for Town and Country Planning Approval. This was an increase of 108 applications compared with last year. The majority of the applications were for either extensions or alterations to existing properties. . . Those for the erection of new buildings were mainly for the infilling of single vacant plots but also included two larger applications, viz:-

- (1) Erection of 23 No. houses at Sandford Close (Phase IV), Valley Road Estate, and
- (2) Erection of 5 No. detached houses on land to the rear of Wrawby House, Park Road.

8. Roads. In spite of the labour shortage, the roadsweeping was reasonably maintained and road gritting carried out during frosty weather. Surface water gullies were also cleaned out twice during the year.

Improvements were carried out to 3 No. open spaces abutting the highways. An area of land fronting the entrance to Gliksten's timber yard in West Street was kerbed and dug over and a rose bed formed. Part of the grass verges fronting the Car Park and Council Offices was also formed into rose beds and 6 No. new blossom trees also planted.

A further stage of the resurfacing programme to carriageways and footways was carried out during the year. This consisted of the surfacing of the concrete carriageways on Vine Farm Estate, Heath Road (part) and Rosabelle Avenue (part) with hot rolled asphalt. This work was carried out by contract and covered a total area of 7,000 square yards. In addition, a length of the footways in Broomfield Crescent and Vine Drive were surfaced with fine cold asphalt; this work being carried out by direct labour and covering an area of 1,220 square yards.

Renumbering of properties in Clifton Terrace was carried out.

The Car Park which provides free 'off street' parking in the town was well used and new fencing was erected. This year, however, because its surface was rapidly disintegrating due to the overnight parking of lorries, the Council decided to erect a notice prohibiting their parking and also 'height' barriers at both its entrance and exit to ensure that the notice was complied with. This action had the desired effect.

The weekly inspections of the street lighting system has been carried out during the year. Further improvements were carried out to the street lighting system by the conversion of 35 No. lamps to 80 watt M.B.F.U., 18 of which were on district roads and 17 on County Roads.

9. Food. 10 lbs. Back bacon which was unfit for human consumption due to decomposition was surrendered to the Council and destroyed.

Following the investigation and report on a complaint concerning a small piece of metal found in a loaf of bread, no further action was taken by the Council.

10. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act. There was a marked increase in the incidence of rodent infestation compared with last year. The number of wasps' nests destroyed also rose slightly this year from 20 to 30, the heaviest period being during the month of August.

RODENT CONTROL

Properties inspected	48	Infested properties treated	45
Rat infestation found	45	Block control treatment	1
Mice infestation found	3	Notices served	NIL

Analysis of Inspections

Public Health Act	185	Food Premises	21
Sewers	83	Factories	35
Refuse	43	Pests Act	48
Street Lighting	267	Public Hall	27
Playing Fields	105	Car Park	25
Cemetery	54	Highways	68
Churchyard	27	Public Conveniences	56
Council House Maintenance	452		

Notices Served

Public Health Act	(Informal)	Served	15
		Abated	15
	(Formal)		NIL



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